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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/645,073	05/13/96	YOSHIOKA M	1046.1133/JD

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EXAMINER
GREGORY, B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2766	13

DATE MAILED: 10/09/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/645,073

Applicant(s)

Makoto Yoshioka et al.

Examiner

Bernarr Earl Gregory

Group Art Unit

2766



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/29/98, 8/10/98, and 9/21/98

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three (3) month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 13, and 14 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 9, 11, and 12 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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1. Claims 1-8, 10, 13, and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record.
2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent claim 9 is indefinite and unclear in that the preamble presents the claim as being a claim to a "storage device," but the body of the claim fails to recite even one means of a "storage device." On line 4 of claim 9, the pronoun "which" lacks clear antecedent basis. In claim 9, it is unclear how the method steps recited in the body of the claim can make up the "storage device." Dependent claim 11 is unclear in that it depends from unclear independent claim 9.

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The following is a quotation of 37 CFR 1.71(a)-(c):

- (a) The specification must include a written description of the invention or discovery and of the manner and process of making and using the same, and is required to be in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which the invention or discovery appertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same.
- (b) The specification must set forth the precise invention for which a patent is solicited, in such manner as to distinguish it from other inventions and from what is old. It must describe completely a specific embodiment

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of the process, machine, manufacture, composition of matter or improvement invented, and must explain the mode of operation or principle whenever applicable. The best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention must be set forth.

(c) In the case of an improvement, the specification must particularly point out the part or parts of the process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter to which the improvement relates, and the description should be confined to the specific improvement and to such parts as necessarily cooperate with it or as may be necessary to a complete understanding or description of it.

The specification is objected to under 37 CFR 1.71 because it fails to teach adequately how to make and to use the invention.

Claim 9 sets itself forth as being a claim directed to a "storage device"; however, the claim fails to set forth even one means of a "storage device." Claim 9 is therefore a single-means claim. Dependent claim 11, which depends from claim 9, does not set forth any means at all; therefore, it is a single-means claim also. Please see MPEP 2164.08(a) and MPEP 2181.

5. Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Please see the objection to the Specification in section 4 hereinabove.

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

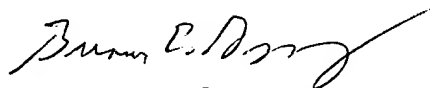
7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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The analysis for this rejection is made using the final version of the "Examination Guidelines for Computer-Related Inventions" as set forth by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. Please note that the Guidelines are not the basis for the rejection; they are only a tool used in applying 35 USC 101.

Claim 12 is non-statutory in that it fails to fall within one of the statutory classes of inventions set forth in 35 USC 101. Claim 12 presents itself as a "computer program" per se. It fails to claim a medium for the computer program. It is noted that a disk is involved in the steps recited in the body of claim 12, but the claimed computer program is not resident on the disk mentioned. Please see section IV.B.1.(a) of the Guidelines.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernarr Gregory whose telephone number is (703) 306-4153.



Bernarr E. Gregory
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2766

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October 6, 1998